



## A HEALTHY NEXT GENERATION

When Governor Gregoire took office, about 98,000 Washington children – nearly 6 percent – did not have access to health insurance. Research shows that uninsured children get less preventive care and must rely on more costly emergency care and other safety nets.

Governor Gregoire believes that no child should go without health care. She promised that all Washington children would have access to health insurance by 2010, and since taking office she has already added children to the health insurance rolls.

We have already made major progress toward covering all kids, and now only 73,000, or 4.4 percent of children, are uninsured. Governor Gregoire will make even more progress by providing health insurance access to an additional 32,000 children, covering a total of approximately 624,000 Washington kids.

This expanded access offers health insurance for all Washington children who live at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level (currently \$50,000 for a family of four). We will also make this health insurance easier to get with one standard application and targeted outreach at places like schools and emergency rooms to find the children who are qualified so that we can help them stay healthy. Healthy children learn better, grow better, and have a better chance of succeeding in life.



The real costs of uninsured children far exceed the costs of providing insurance because children without health coverage eventually receive care from emergency rooms or other safety net providers, where the cost of care is more expensive than preventive care or early treatment. By providing children with necessary preventive care and medical services, they will be healthier and we will save money.

Governor Gregoire is also providing new vaccines to support routine childhood immunizations. These new vaccines will protect children from rotavirus, which causes childhood diarrhea, chicken pox and the virus associated with cervical cancer. With these additional immunizations, and continued immunizations for traditional diseases such as measles, mumps and rubella, we maintain Washington's designation as a "universal vaccination" state by the Centers for Disease Control, protecting all our children from preventable disease.

Health insurance access is offered through four programs (Medicaid, the State and Federal Children's Health Insurance Programs and the Basic Health Plan) for Washingtonians until they reach age 19.

With Governor Gregoire's targeted investments, Washington will have a healthy next generation.

Health Insurance for Children	\$60.6 million
Universal Vaccinations	\$26.2 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$86.8 million</b>